

System Configuration Team (SCT)

Reasonable & Prudent Measure #26

Meeting Notes

July 17, 2003

Greetings and Introductions.

The July 17 meeting of the System Configuration Team was held at the National Marine Fisheries Service offices in Portland, Oregon. The meeting was chaired by Bill Hevlin of NMFS. The agenda and a list of attendees for the meeting are attached as Enclosures A and B. Hevlin led a round of introductions and a review of the agenda.

The following is a distillation (not a verbatim transcript) of items discussed at the meeting, together with actions taken on those items. Please note that some enclosures referenced may be too lengthy to routinely include with the meeting notes; copies of all enclosures referred to in the minutes are available upon request from Kathy Ceballos of NMFS at 503/230-5420.

2. Action Agencies' Implementation Plan Update.

Ken Barnhardt said the action agencies are in beginning the annual implementation plan update cycle for the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries BiOps; both the 2004 annual plan and the 2004-2008 five-year plan are currently under development. In the past, we've prepared a draft plan and sent it out for comments, Barnhardt said; this year, in response to comments, we're asking for input on the implementation plans prior to their development. Barnhardt asked that any comments be submitted to Jim Fodrea, Kathy Fisher of Bonneville or Jim Athearn of the Corps by July 31, although he said comments submitted after that date may still be considered.

We need to complete both implementation plans, and the three-year check-in, by September of this year, Barnhardt said. He distributed a fact sheet outlining the kind of feedback the action agencies would find most useful, as well as contact numbers and email addresses (Enc. C). Barnhardt added that the action agencies' 2003-2007 implementation plan is available via the salmonrecovery.gov website; he suggested that

the SCT membership use this document as the basis for their comments, identifying anything they would like to see changed in the 2004-2008 plan.

3. Fish Facility Design Review Work Group (FFDRWG) and Studies Review Work Group (SRWG) Update.

The next Walla Walla FFDRWG meeting is scheduled for July 30-31 at the Corps' Walla Walla District headquarters, said Rebecca Kalamsz; she asked that any agenda items for that meeting be emailed to Marvin Shuttles. Steve Pettit asked that Corps written reporting on the McNary juvenile transport operation be included on that agenda. The next Portland District FFDRWG meeting is scheduled for August 1 beginning at 9 a.m. Kalamsz also provided a summary of the recent SRWG discussion of the results from the spring and summer spill tests at Ice Harbor; PIT-tag data from the summer test will not be available until next week at the earliest. Preliminary data indicates that there may be a unique injury problem at and upstream of the deflectors at that project. Again, this data is very preliminary, Kalamsz stressed. She added that the Corps will be conducting bathymetry surveys on the Ice Harbor spillway next week to evaluate stilling basin erosion concerns; results from that survey will be available by late July.

4. FY'04 CRFM Project Spreadsheet Line Item Prioritization.

Kranda distributed the most recent version of the FY'04 CRFM spreadsheet (Enc. D), as well as the FY'04 workplans. He noted that the items highlighted in grey are those the federal agencies consider the highest priorities: mainly continuing contracts and projects finishing up from previous years. Kranda noted that the total cost of these highest-priority projects is about \$65 million; add in the priority 2 projects, and the total is about \$84 million. There are a number of projects below that line that may need to jump up, such as Ice Harbor RSW. The total cost of the FY'04 spreadsheet, if all projects were to be funded, is just over \$103 million. Kranda said the House has identified \$85 million for CRFM in FY'04; the Senate has not yet set a number.

The remainder of today's meeting was devoted to a discussion of the highest FY'04 CRFM priorities. Dana Knutsen asked whether the McNary gate hoist rehab contract should even go forward, given its current position on the spreadsheet (Line 98). That's the kind of thing we're here to discuss, Hevlin replied. My thought is that we should try to identify the list of items that at least one, and hopefully more, parties believe should be high priorities, he said. At our August meeting, we'll then move on to the bubble projects.

There was general agreement that this would be a useful approach. The group then went through the spreadsheet line by line, identifying the following list of high-priority items:

- Line-item 98 (McNary gate and hoist rehab)

- Line-item 12 (LoMo flow deflectors)
- Line-item 1 (B2 surface bypass)
- Line-item 3 (B2 DSM, monitoring and outfall)
- Line-item 6a (Ice Harbor N. shore AWS bearing replacement)
- Line-item 6b (Ice Harbor N. shore AWS sump mods) – **designated “1-;”needs additional FFDRWG discussion, may be possible to defer**
- Line-item 8 (John Day mitigation evaluation – Ringold) – **Ron Boyce expressed concern about this item**
- Line-item 14 (Lower Monumental barge loading improvements – dewaterer) – **to be discussed further at Walla Walla District FFDRWG**
- Line-item 17a (The Dalles spillway modifications)
- Line-item 26 (McNary ESBS)
- Line-item 28 (Little Goose ESBS)
- Line-item 29 (Lower Granite ESBS)
- Line-item 44 (Bonneville PH2 AWS)
- Line-item 56 (B1 surface bypass) – **Portland District FFDRWG to discuss whether or not the surface bypass system needs to be removed this year**
- Line-item 2 (Bonneville juvenile fish passage studies) – **scrub if possible**
- Line-item 4 (B2 FGE) – CRITFC undecided on priority
- Line-item 5 (Bonneville flat-plate adult PIT tag detector)
- Line-item 9 (John Day ladder jumping and holding)
- Line-item 10 (Lower Granite adult PIT detectors)
- Line-item 11 (Lower Monumental JBS outfall and divider wall) – **may combine with line-item 42**
- Line-item 13 (Lower Monumental survival/efficiency study)
- Line-item 15 (The Dalles adult channel dewatering) – **zeroed out**
- Line-item 16 (The Dalles spillway and sluiceway survival study) – **scrub if possible; will discuss at FFDRWG**
- Line-item 17b (The Dalles spillway improvement studies) – **needs scrubbing**
- Line-item 18a (Ice Harbor PIT-tag detector – main transportation flume)
- Line-item 18b (Lower Monumental PIT-tag detector – main transportation flume) – **some disagreement among federal parties about whether this should be a high priority; states and tribes would prefer to defer; may be cost savings associated with bundling**
- Line-item 19 (system delayed mortality of juvenile salmonids) – **designated “1-“ by CRITFC and Idaho; will be scrubbed**
- Line-item 20 (system PIT-tag recovery – estuary and avian predation) – **Council has recommended no funding for this item; BPA funding decision not yet made**
- Line-item 21 (system high flow PIT at corner collector)
- Line-item 22 (system – investigate headburn)
- Line-item 23 (estuary studies) – **many SCT members expressed concern about cost; low priority for states and tribes; needs scrubbing**
- Line-item 24 (Bonneville PH2 fish units intake debris) – **designated “1-“**

- Line-item 25 (Lower Granite AWS)
- Line-item 27 (Ice Harbor survival/efficiency studies)
- Line-item 30 (system – turbine passage survival, PH1) – **zeroed out**
- Line-item 31 (McNary juvenile fish facility debris) – **designated “2”**
- Line-item 32 (Lower Granite surface bypass and collection) – **evaluation of summer migrants a high priority; needs further discussion and scrubbing at FFDRWG; designated “2”**
- Line-item 33a (Bonneville adult PIT)
- Line-item 33b (The Dalles adult PIT) – **zeroed out**
- Line-item 33c (John Day adult PIT)
- Line-item 34 (The Dalles sluiceway outfall/emergency AWS) – **zeroed out**
- Line-item 35 (estuary avian predation)
- Line-item 36 (Bonneville adult fallback) – **zeroed out**
- Line-item 37 (Lower Monumental ESBS) – **zeroed out, still a configuration option for this project**
- Line-item 38a (The Dalles surface bypass/curtain)
- Line-item 38b (The Dalles forebay study) – **designated “1-“; scrubbing needed**
- Line-item 39 (system – multiple bypass accumulated impacts) – **funding reduced to \$100,000 to finish letter report**
- Line-item 40 (Little Goose juvenile facility PIT tag improvements)
- Line-item 41 (Lower Monumental adult PIT detectors)
- Line-item 42 (Lower Monumental RSW/BGS) – **designated “1-“**
- Line-item 43 (McNary adult PIT detectors) – **zeroed out**
- Line-item 45 (John Day biological studies) – **designated “2”**
- Line-item 46 (McNary flow deflectors and divider wall evaluations) – **designated “3”**
- Line-item 47 (McNary survival/efficiency studies) – **only the Corps ranked this “1”; could be combined with line-item 106**
- Line-item 48 (system – adult passage study) – **high-priority but needs scrubbing**
- Line-item 48a (system – adult temperature evaluation) – **designated “2”**
- Line-item 49 (John Day surface bypass) – **designated “2”**
- Line-item 50 (McNary forebay temperature improvements) – **designated “2”**
- Line-item 51 (Bonneville implement gas fast track) – **designated “2”**
- Line-item 52 (John Day extended-length screens) – **designated “2”**
- Line-item 53 (system – turbine passage survival PHII)– **designated “2”**
- Line-item 54 (Bonneville PH1 DSM, monitoring and outfall) – **designated “2”**
- Line-item 55 (Bonneville PHI FGE) – **designated “2”**
- Line-item 57 (Little Goose adult PIT detectors) – **designated “2”**
- Line-item 58 (Lower Granite flow deflectors and divider wall evaluations) – **designated “3”**
- Line-item 59 (McNary juvenile facility improvements) – **designated “2”**
- Line-item 60 (McNary RSW) – **designated “2”**
- Line-item 61 (system – adult fallback/juvenile collection channel) – **designated**

"2"

- Line-item 62 (system – adult fish ladder transition pool and weir mode evaluation) – **designated "1"**
- Line-item 63 (system – evaluation of juvenile fish separators) – **designated "1"**
- Line-item 64 (system – juvenile passage temperature effects) – **designated "2"**
- Line-item 66 (Little Goose flow deflectors and divider wall evaluations) – **designated "3"**
- Line-item 68 (system -- lamprey passage studies) – **designated "1" by FPAC, "3" by the federal parties**
- Line-item 70 (Ice Harbor RSW) – **designated "1-"**
- Line-item 73 (Little Goose survival/efficiency studies) – **designated "2/3"; would be a "1" for FPAC if PIT-tag only; discuss at FFDRWG)**
- Line-item 76 (Lower Snake JBS improvements) – **designated "1-2" by FPAC; "2" by feds**
- Line-item 77 (John Day N. shore AWS) – **designated "1"**
- Line-item 81 (B2 gatewell debris cleaning) – **designated "3"**
- Line-item 95 (Snake/McNary decision document) – **high federal priority, FPAC says "2", scrub if possible**
- Line-item 96 (The Dalles decision document) – **designated "1-" needs scrubbing**
- Line-item 97 (RPA 179, recovery planning) – **designated "1"; funding is required under the BiOp.**
- Line-item 102 (acoustic camera study) – **designated "2"**
- Line-item 103 (flume study at McNary) – **designated "3"**
- Line-item 104 (system – flood control study) – **designated "1"**
- Line-item 106 (McNary turbine survival) – **to be discussed at a separate meeting later today**
- Line-item 107 (summer spill tests) – **to be discussed by SRWG; the Council considers this a huge issue, and is calling for immediate tests. Immediate testing is also supported by members of the NW Congressional delegation.**

The group devoted a few minutes of discussion to the letter from the Northwest Congressional delegation to BPA calling for immediate implementation of tests of the summer spill program; there was general agreement that, until the objectives of these studies have been designed, it is difficult to say what is required. Hevlin designated an SCT subcommittee to explore this issue and develop a written response to the letter.

Hevlin added that he will work with Kranda to develop a revised version of the CRFM spreadsheet, reflecting today's discussion, to be distributed at the SCT's August meeting.

6. Next SCT Meeting Date.

The next meeting of the System Configuration Team was set for August 21.

Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.